

Appl. No. 10/606,909

Third Response to Final Office Action of October 20, 2005

Page 8

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for delivering fluid to a desired location within a patient's body, comprising:

an elongated outer tubular body having proximal and distal ends, the outer tubular body having a lumen with an inner surface provided with inwardly directed projections spaced from one another around the circumference of the lumen and defining recesses between them;

an elongated inner tubular member coaxially nested within the lumen of the outer tubular body to longitudinally move and rotate therein, the inner tubular member having an outer surface provided with outwardly directed projections spaced from one another around the circumference of the inner tubular member and defining recesses between them;

a locking mechanism comprising the inwardly directed projections of the outer tubular body and the outwardly directed projections of the inner tubular member, wherein in a first rotational position of the inner tubular member relative to the outer tubular body, the inwardly and outwardly directed projections and the defined recesses permit the inner tubular member to longitudinally move within the lumen of the outer tubular body and, in a second rotational position of the inner tubular member relative to the outer tubular body, the inwardly and outwardly directed projections are caused to engage one another in an interlocking relationship to prevent longitudinal movement of the inner tubular member within the lumen of the outer tubular body;

Appl. No. 10/606,909
Third Response to Final Office Action of October 20, 2005
Page 9

a first frustoconical flange carried at the distal end of the elongated inner tubular member; and

a second frustoconical flange carried at the distal end of the elongated outer tubular body, said second flange being oppositely directed from said first flange; and

a fluid delivery catheter slidably located in the inner tubular member, having proximal and distal ends and provided with laterally directed fluid delivery ports adjacent its distal end, the distal end of the fluid delivery catheter being locatable within the inner tubular member.

40. (Previously presented) An apparatus for delivering fluid to a desired location within a patient's body; comprising:

a tubular member, having proximal and distal ends and provided with a means adjacent its distal end for stabilizing the tubular member relative to body tissue through which the tubular member may extend; and

a fluid delivery catheter slidably located in the tubular member, having proximal and distal ends and provided with laterally directed fluid delivery ports adjacent its distal end, the distal end of the fluid delivery catheter being locatable within the tubular member.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the elongated tubular body and inner tubular member are adapted to provide access to and delivery of treatment in the pericardial space.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the inwardly directed projections on the outer tubular body inner lumen are spaced apart approximately 120° from one another, the outwardly directed projections are spaced apart approximately 120° from one another, and the inner tubular

Appl. No. 10/606,909
Third Response to Final Office Action of October 20, 2005
Page 10

member is rotated approximately 60° relative to the outer tubular body between the first and second rotational positions.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the inwardly directed projections on the outer tubular body inner lumen are circumferentially aligned to form a ring and the outwardly directed projections on the inner tubular member are circumferentially aligned to form a ring.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the inner lumen surface of the outer tubular body is provided with a plurality of rings of inwardly directed projections, each ring comprising a plurality of projections spaced from one another around the circumference of the lumen and defining recesses between them; and wherein outer surface of the inner tubular member is provided with a plurality of rings of outwardly directed projections, each ring comprising a plurality of projections spaced from one another around the circumference of the inner tubular member and defining recesses between them.